

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is not more than three, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended Claims 11 and 14, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, into independent form. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohba et al., U.S. Patent 4,658,155, in combination with Harnden, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent 4,626,698, is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges the Ohba et al. Patent discloses a circuit arrangement for an electrical appliance including a piezo switch (element PS). This is incorrect. The switch PS shown in FIG. 1 of the Ohba et al. Patent is not a piezo switch, as in Applicants' claimed invention, but a power switch (Col. 2, lines 27-28). The power switch PS is a mechanical switch, which is identified in FIG. 1 by the standardized graphic symbol for a mechanical switch.

As described at Col. 2, lines 47-56, of the Ohba et al. Patent, “[w]hen the power switch PS is closed, the AC voltage of the AC power source is half wave rectified by the diode D1 for rectification.” The rectified output is supplied to the piezoelectric actuators PA1 and PA2 so that the actuators undergo deformation in one direction. When the power switch PS is open, the supply of electric power to the piezo electric actuators PA1 and PA2 stops, and the piezoelectric actuators PA1 and PA2 begin restoring deformation (Col. 3, lines 1-4).

The Ohba et al. Patent does not disclose that element PS is a piezo switch as alleged by the Office Action, but actually discloses that element PS is a mechanical power switch. Therefore, the purported combination of the Ohba et al. Patent and the Harnden, Jr. et al. Patent does not provide or suggest every limitation of Applicants’ claimed invention. The Office Action thus does not put forth a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness, and Applicants’ invention of Claims 1-3, 13, and 16, is patentable over the cited combination of references.

Furthermore, the piezoelectric actuators PA1 and PA2 of the Ohba et al. Patent generate a mechanical action (deformation) due to electrical voltage (the Harnden, Jr. et al. Patent discloses an essentially similar operation). This is generally opposite of Applicants’ claimed invention, which incorporates a piezo switch, such that can generate an electrical pulse from a mechanical pressure (*See Applicants’ Specification at page 4, penultimate paragraph, and Claim 3*). The combination of the Ohba et al. Patent and the Harnden, Jr. et al. Patent does not make up for the deficiency of either reference, and does not provide or suggest Applicants’ claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter


The Office Action indicates Claims 4-12, 14-15, and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the effort in indicating allowable subject matter. Applicants amended Claims 11 and 14 into independent form. Applicants assert all claims are in condition for allowance in view of the above remarks regarding the invention of independent Claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not resolved in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark D. Swanson
Regis. No. 48,498

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road
Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195
(847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403